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SOURCE Voprosy Ekonomiki, No 9, 1948.KULAKS, CHURCH HOLDS 20 PERCENT OF POLISH FARM LAND

M. Dubrovskiy

The land reforms in Poland took place in an atmosphere of intense class struggle. The expropriated landlords, kulaks, and clergy attempted to disrupt the reforms in every possible manner. The Anglo-American imperialist agent, Mikolajczyk, was the ringleader, utilizing the apparatus of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform to sabotage, throttle, and disrupt the execution of the reforms.

While the reforms succeeded for the most part, 20 percent of Polish farm land is still in the hands of kulaks and the church. The kulaks are attempting to subvert the reforms by secretly buying up or renting the small plots allotted to the peasants under the land-reform action. Local administrative agricultural agencies and cooperatives are not yet free from reactionary forces. The kulaks, maintaining their hold in some of the organizations, are exploiting the privileges granted to small and medium land holders to their own ends. They are attempting to evade taxes, circumvent labor legislation restricting the exploitation of farm laborers, and hoard grain and meat for speculative purposes. They are stimulating antigovernment agitation, spreading slanderous rumors, and murdering rural Party members and representatives.

Kulak influence is also evident in the Peasants' Self Help Cooperative. A purge of kulak elements from the leadership of this cooperative is now taking place.

The attack on private capital in trade was intensified in 1947 - 1948. State control of wholesale trade, including cooperatives, is now 80 - 85 percent complete.

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